

MINUTES
BROWN COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COORDINATING COMMITTEE
Monday, December 14, 2009
Green Bay Metro Transportation Center
901 University Avenue
Green Bay, Wisconsin
9:45 a.m.

ROLL CALL

Sunny Archambault	<u>X</u>	Nick Mahlik	<u>X</u>
Betty Bennett	<u></u>	Byia Martin	<u>X</u>
Diana Brown	<u></u>	Barbara Natelle	<u></u>
Brandon Cooper	<u></u>	Sandy Popp	<u>X</u>
Chris Culotta	<u>X</u>	Cole Runge	<u>X</u>
Pat Finder-Stone	<u>Exc</u>	Jayne Sellen	<u>X</u>
Carl Graf	<u>X</u>	Julie Tetzlaff	<u>X</u>
Chris Hasselbacher	<u></u>	Mary Van Acker	<u></u>
Kathy Hillary	<u></u>	Tina Whetung	<u>X</u>
Kathy Johnson	<u>X</u>	Vacant – BC Board	<u></u>

Others present: Lisa J. Conard, Steve Maricque, Cathy Putman, and Steve Rosenbaum.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

C. Runge called the meeting to order at 9:45 a.m.

1. Approval of the September 14, 2009, Transportation Coordinating Committee meeting minutes.

A motion was made by S. Archambault, seconded J. Sellen, to approve the September 14, 2009, Transportation Coordinating Committee meeting minutes. Motion carried.

2. Discussion and action on the Brown County Aging and Disability Resource Center's application for 2010 Wisconsin Specialized Transportation Assistance Program (section 85.21) funds.

S. Archambault provided an overview of transportation needs and gaps for the county's elderly and disabled population:

- Many seniors and persons with disabilities cannot afford specialized transportation.
- Rural residents do not have access to Red Cross or Green Bay Metro transportation services.
- Some transportation programs limit the number of trips a person can take in one day to two one-way trips (this does not allow someone who has a medical appointment to go to another site for a medical test or to fill a prescription).
- Social and recreational trips are difficult to arrange because medical appointments are a priority for some transportation programs.
- Public transportation is not available Saturday evenings, Sundays, or holidays.
- There is a need to better accommodate bariatric passengers.

- Short and long-term funding for local transportation programs is a concern.

A motion was made by K. Johnson, seconded by J. Sellen, to support the Brown County Aging and Disability Resource Center's application for 2010 Wisconsin Specialized Transportation Assistance Program (section 85.21) funds. Motion carried.

3. Request for a letter from the Transportation Coordinating Committee supporting the Lakeland Chapter of the American Red Cross' FY2011 & FY2012 Section 5310 projects.

S. Maricque stated that the Section 5310 request is for replacement vehicles. These vehicles will provide more seating for passengers in wheelchairs.

A motion was made by S. Archambault, seconded by J. Tetzlaff, to submit a letter from the Transportation Coordinating Committee supporting the Lakeland Chapter of the American Red Cross' FY2011 & FY2012 Section 5310 projects. Motion carried.

K. Johnson asked if Red Cross received stimulus money for transportation or any other programs.

S. Maricque stated no.

4. Discussion of the status of a Regional Transit Authority (RTA).

C. Runge stated that at the last meeting of the TCC, the committee directed the chairperson to prepare and send a letter supporting efforts to establish a RTA to Green Bay Metro, state senators, and state assemblypersons.

C. Runge stated that he prepared and sent the letter, and a copy can be found in the September 14, 2009, TCC meeting minutes.

K. Johnson stated there has been no action at the state level regarding establishing a RTA in the Green Bay area or the Fox Valley.

J. Sellen stated that the funding mechanism for RTAs seems to be the sticking point with state elected officials. J. Sellen stated she feels that we will not see RTA enabling legislation this session. J. Sellen suggested that New North, an economic development organization operating in this part of the state, may be an ally in this effort.

J. Sellen stated that multi-jurisdictional TIF (tax increment financing) districts might be able to assist in paying for transportation services, but this concept is still being explored.

C. Runge stated that current federal transportation law, SAFETEA-LU, expired on September 30, 2009. There have been two short-term continuances of the law signed by the president. The new transportation law will likely determine if Metro and other systems with fewer than 100 peak hour buses will be exempt from the federal 200,000 population rule.

S. Popp stated she would like a one-page fact sheet summarizing the benefits of a RTA so she can include it when Options for Independent Living staff meets with state legislators in February of 2010.

K. Johnson agreed to put together a one-page fact sheet and provide it to Cole for distribution to all of the TCC members.

S. Popp asked that the fact sheet be sent to her before the end of January of 2010.

K. Johnson stated that a riders group has formed in the area. It is run by Brad Sauer, who is a frequent Metro rider. Some of the TCC members asked for contact information. The information was subsequently provided by L. Conard and is as follows:

- Mr. Sauer's contact information is: brad.sauer@savegreenbaymetro.com
- *Save Green Bay Metro – The Green Bay Transit Alliance* website can currently be found at www.SaveGreenBayMetro.com. The group plans on changing its web address sometime in 2010.

C. Culotta suggested that letters of support and other information regarding these efforts be shared with the Wisconsin Department of Transportation Bureau of Transit staff and Wisconsin's Secretary of Transportation.

The consensus of the committee was that legislators are afraid of supporting enabling legislation for a RTA because they do not want to be associated with a sales tax, even though the funding mechanism has not been identified.

C. Runge cautioned the committee that even if we are successful with legislation that exempts Green Bay Metro from the 200,000 population rule, we are still in need of a RTA to maintain and enhance current service levels.

J. Sellen stated that she would contact Rep. Steve Kagan's transportation advisor regarding this federal issue.

S. Archambault suggested that those who ride the bus or benefit from public transportation services submit their stories to state and federal elected officials.

The committee members agreed that a postcard in the shape of a bus or a postcard with an image of a bus could be developed and distributed to those who use or benefit from public transportation services. The individual could explain what public transportation means to them. The postcard would then be mailed to state and federal representatives. Area social service agencies, *Save Green Bay Metro-Green Bay Transit Alliance*, and/or others could help distribute the postcards.

C. Runge stated that Planning staff will investigate creating a postcard and assured the committee members that he will keep them up-to-date regarding this effort.

A discussion occurred regarding the popularity of developing or expanding light-rail services within and between large urban areas.

C. Putman suggested that smaller vehicles and a demand-response system could be beneficial in meeting the transportation needs of those in the Green Bay area.

C. Runge stated that the two-hub system concept developed by the Planning staff in 2005 continues to be a possible solution to improving public transportation service in the area.

K. Johnson agreed. K. Johnson stated that she believes Metro is two years away from implementing a two-hub system.

5. Other matters.

As a follow-up to past meeting discussions, C. Culotta asked Medi-Vans staff if post-medical appointment pick-ups have improved.

S. Rosenbaum stated yes.

N. Mahlik stated that management encourages drivers to communicate with each passenger regarding their expected pick-up location.

C. Runge set the next meeting date for:

Monday, March 8, 2010
Green Bay Metro Transportation Center
901 University Avenue
Green Bay, Wisconsin
9:45 a.m.

S. Popp requested that meeting dates for the remainder of 2010 be established and provided to the committee. L. Conard subsequently reserved the Transit Commission room for the remaining 2010 TCC meetings. A complete meeting schedule is listed below:

Brown County Transportation Coordinating Committee (TCC) 2010 meeting schedule:

All meetings will be held at 9:45 a.m. in the Transit Commission Room located at
Green Bay Metro Transportation Center
901 University Avenue
Green Bay, Wisconsin

March 8
June 14
September 13
December 13

K. Johnson stated that Green Bay Metro is offering a free bus ride in exchange for one can of non-perishable food product. Drivers will collect the food items as passengers board the bus. The promotion continues through Friday, December 18. All food items collected will be delivered to Paul's Pantry for distribution to qualifying area residents.

6. Adjourn.

C. Runge closed the meeting at 11:00 a.m.